

Review of: "A Study to Assess the Effect of Pelvic Floor Muscle Strengthening Exercises on Urinary Incontinence in Patients with Cervical Cancer Undergoing Radiation Therapy at a Tertiary Cancer Centre"

Masume Bayat¹

¹ Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

It is a quasi experimental study evaluating the effects of pelvic floor strengthening programs in cervical cancer women who have undergone radiotherapy. There are some points which need more attention:

1. According to the demographic data, all included patients have been multiparous. As we know, multiparity is a strong risk factor for development of pelvic floor weakness and incontinence. It is not clear for how long the studied subjects have had the complains of incontinency. So, their complains can simply be due to multiparity but not radiation therapy.
2. It is not clear how long after the radiotherapy the subjects have enrolled the study. So It is not possible to evaluate the effects of radiotherapy on pelvic floor muscles.
3. According to the study, the subjects have performed the exercises for 8 weeks, and their compliance and adherence to the exercises was recorded in a daily logbook. It is not mentioned who has obtained and recorded the data? The patient or practitioner? If it was performed by the patient, how did the authors make sure about the reliability of data? Furthermore, the study dose not have any loss to follow up case (just 2 cases who died). Considering the nature of intervention -8 weeks of daily exercises- the attrition level was expected to be higher.
4. According to the results, none of the cases had rated their incontinency as mild. this finding seems unusual. Do the authors have any explanation for this finding?
5. According to the results, there was no association between BMI and urinary incontinence. How do the authors explain this finding?

Thank you